

Pick of the employers

The National Apprenticeship awards recognise England's best apprenticeship employers - here are the regional winners who made it on to the Top 100 list

- Macro Employer of the Year (5000+ employees)
- Large Employer of the Year (250-4,999 employees)
- Medium Employer of the Year (25-249 employees)
- Small Employer of the Year (1-24 employees)

THAMES VALLEY
Winner
EDF Energy, Nuclear Generation
Highly commended
Amey
Winner
AWE plc
Highly commended
DAF Trucks
MAN Truck & Bus UK Ltd
Winner
Messier-Bugatti-Dowty MRO
Winner
The Style Guru
Highly commended
Power Logistics
Resource Productions Ltd

YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER
Winner
Wm Morrison Supermarkets Plc
Highly commended
Doncaster council
Winner
Yorkshire Ambulance Service
Highly commended
Tata Steel
Tata Steel Europe
Winner
North York Moors National Park Authority
Highly commended
Dale Power Solutions plc
Matthews Brand Solutions UK

WEST MIDLANDS
Winner
Sanctuary Group
Highly commended
Coventry city council
Winner
WM Housing Group
Winner
Hendra Healthcare Ludlow Ltd
Highly Commended
Belgrade Theatre
Pailton Engineering
Winner
John Cliff Building Services
Highly Commended
Joseph's Hair Team

NORTH WEST
Winner
Cumbria county council
Highly commended
Unilever UK
Winner
Plumbs Ltd
Winner
Hycrome (Europe) Ltd
Winner
Forth Engineering Ltd - Cumbria
Highly commended
Goodteeth Dental Surgeries Ltd



Vienna Jackson, 20, second year conservation apprentice at North York Moors National Park Authority

I left sixth form with three A-levels, but I've never been interested in going to university. I just love being outside. We have learnt a lot over the last 15 months, including how to build fences, use a chainsaw, spray pesticides, fell small trees and do dry stone-walling - all skills we can take with us wherever we go. Apart from me, there's only one other girl so we're a bit outnumbered but it honestly doesn't matter - they're all great. Horticulture is my passion, so I would like to go on to specialise in that area and work with plants, possibly in garden design.

NORTHEAST
Winner
Redcar & Cleveland borough council
Highly commended
Northumberland county council
Siemens plc
Winner
Caterpillar Peterlee Ltd
Highly commended
Hays Travel
Sembcorp Utilities (UK) Limited
Winner
Dale & Valley Homes
Highly commended
Pearson Engineering Services
Winner
TW Plumbing & Heating
Highly commended
Love Food Ltd

GREATER MANCHESTER
Winner
Stockport council
Highly commended
Barclays Bank plc
Staffordshire county council
Winner
MBDA Missile Systems
Highly commended
Bentley Motors Ltd
Finning UK Ltd
Winner
Barlows UK Ltd
Highly commended
Britplas
Winner
The Chartwell Practice
Highly commended
Jessup Build Develop



Chris Slater, 19, third year apprentice electrician at Barlows, an electrical contractor in Cheshire.

I chose this apprenticeship as it seemed like a really good chance to learn and earn on the job. I was pretty good at maths and physics at school, as well as practical subjects like woodwork, but I'm not very good at sitting in a classroom so this really suits me. I started straight from school aged 16 and I've come a long way in the three years. I've learned how to deal with other contractors and customers. I can go out on my own now on jobs, which was a bit nerve-racking at first. For most people, there's a job at the end of the apprenticeship, but if you pass your final exams and you're not quite ready to do jobs by yourself then Barlows give you a refresher course.

EAST MIDLANDS
Winner
Rolls-Royce
Highly commended
Kwik-Fit GB Ltd (Training Academy)
Winner
Gelder Group
Highly commended
Barratt Developments PLC
Caterpillar (UK) Limited
Winner
Imperial Commercials Ltd
Highly commended
Cooper and Taylor Hair and Beauty
Winner
Tideswell Surgery
Highly commended
Coleman Bradshaw



Mathew Cuckson, 18, first year painting and decorating apprentice at the Gelder Group, a construction and development company in Lincolnshire

My friends thought I was a bit mad when I dropped out, halfway through my A-levels, to become a painter and decorator. My school didn't really want me to leave, as I was doing quite well, but I wanted to get into the workplace. I now work three days a week and attend Lincoln College for two days to learn the theoretical side of painting and decorating. I've learned how to work with people, how to deal with customers and I get a lot of support from my training adviser at the Gelder Group, who calls me every week to check how I am doing.

LONDON
Winner
BT
Highly commended
IBM UK Limited
Winner
Neopost Limited
Highly commended
Morleys Stores Ltd.
Winner
Fennies Under Ss
Highly commended
Coreco
Persona HR Ltd
Winner
TEC Group International Recruitment Ltd

SOUTHEAST
Winner
Finmeccanica
Highly commended
Ford Motor Company Ltd
Winner
Caffyns plc
Winner
Spicerhaart
Highly commended
Vertical Systems
Winner
SH & EM Electronics Ltd

CENTRAL EASTERN
Winner
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Highly commended
NHS Norfolk & Waveney
Winner
FCO Services
Winner
TMJ Interiors
Highly commended
AM Blatch Electrical Contractor Ltd
Railcare Ltd
Winner
Alan Hair Designs



Daniel Carey, 22, third year technical and engineering apprentice at FCO Services, part of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

I started A-levels, but soon realised the academic route wasn't for me, and left sixth form halfway through. When I saw an advert in my local paper for an apprenticeship, I decided to give it a go. As part of my training, I've qualified to climb radio masts and been on two installation trips overseas. I spent a month in Nigeria as well as a month in Jerusalem, which was challenging but helped me develop as a person. I feel really lucky to have had that opportunity to experience other cultures. When I qualify in September, there'll be opportunities to progress, not just as a technical installer, but in other careers within FCO Services. Once I have more experience, I'd like to move into project management.

